



**2014 OFFICERS**

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**COMMITTEES**

**Beautification**

**Finance**

**Membership**

**Preservation and Urban Design**

**Public Relations/Media**

**Public Safety**

**Zoning and Land Use**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**West End Neighborhood Development**  
September 2, 2014, 7pm - West End Library

The meeting was called to order by President Kimberly Parmer at 7:07pm.

**Officers Present**

Kimberly Parmer, *President*  
Alisha Thym, *First Vice President*  
Angela Brown, *Second Vice President*  
Denise Blake, *Secretary*  
Tony McNeal, *Parliamentarian*

**Officers Absent**

*Treasurer*

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The 2014 officers introduced themselves, followed by meeting attendees and guests.

**ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**

A motion was made by Yolanda Bell to approve the evening’s agenda as presented. Naquia Harris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by LA Thym to approve the July 1, 2014, meeting minutes as presented. Aaron Eide seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Secretary Denise Blake provided **an unofficial financial statement** in absence of our treasurer.

- WEND’s bank balance is approximately \$19,000.00.
- During August 2014, WEND received total revenue in the amount of \$96.50 from merchandise sales.
- During August 2014, there were total expenses in the amount of approximately \$476.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Kim Parmer’s remarks emphasized prepping Historic West End for new economic development opportunities. Several businesses have expressed interest in coming to our community, but we need to prepare a comprehensive business development package to share with interested parties. We should grow our relationships with business

development leaders, including Invest Atlanta and commercial real estate agents. Our neighbor Maurice Gunter developed an initial business opportunity plan. Scott Shepherd will work to enhance the plan and make it ready for businesses.

## **GUEST PRESENTATIONS**

### **Atlanta Beltline**

**Kevin Burke, Senior Landscape Architect** (construction manager for southwest trail extension project)

**Beth McMillan**, Community Planning and Public Engagement

Using a 33-mile network of multi-use trails, the Atlanta BeltLine creates a new public realm offering a pedestrian friendly environment that promotes walking, jogging, biking, and living along the Atlanta BeltLine. The trail system includes the core 22-mile corridor that follows the original railroad segments, as well as numerous other extensions linking to many of Atlanta's existing parks and trails. With help from The PATH Foundation, this trail system is connecting Atlanta's in-town neighborhoods and will eventually link to a broader path network for the entire metro area.

Project Manager Kevin Burke provided an update on the expansion work on the **southwest trail**. There are three bids in place for the project. The bid approval process should take 6-8 weeks. If everything falls into place, work should commence by Thanksgiving (optimistically) or as late as January 2015. Thirty months have been allocated for the project. Once a contractor is selected, there will be a community meeting revealing the contractor and a plan outlaying the project. Principal contacts will be revealed to communicate concerns during the construction phase. Trails are designed to be unique and distinct, and a destination.

A question was asked regarding construction vehicles on residential streets in our community during the construction process. While not in stone, streets likely affected will be:

- Allene Street
- Existing right of way off of Donnelly (between Lee and Lawton)
- Langhorn
- Lena Street/Washington Park

Learn more about Beltline projects at [www.beltline.org](http://www.beltline.org).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Public Safety**

Zone 4 Commander, Major Rodney Bryant, provided the **APD Crime report** for August 2014. There was a slight increase in robberies, aggravated assaults and vehicle larceny. There were 82 arrests last month in West End – most were panhandlers and public intoxication. A jaywalking detail during the day has provided extra police visibility.

Neighbors should continue to be vigilant on Oglethorpe/York Street corridor walking to/from MARTA; need to improve lighting in that corridor.

Member concerns for Major Bryant - 404.803.7615, [rbryant@atlantaga.gov](mailto:rbryant@atlantaga.gov)

- Public drinking on Dunn Street between SkyLofts and the West End Mall
- Howell Park – are there hours for the park? Yes, it closes at 11pm. There are homeless people sleeping in the park and kids smoke in the park after hours.
- Vehicle break-ins at the Ace Hardware parking lot
- Parking in the traffic lane on Oak Street adjacent to West End Park

An APD Citizens Advisory Board meets quarterly. WEND will continue to circulate meeting dates as they occur.

Our neighbor Michael Johnson gave an update on last month's **National Night Out** observance at West End Park. Twenty-one community residents signed up to participate in WEND. There were approximately 75 attendees at the event. Many thanks to everyone, including our law enforcement/public safety officials, who worked to make the event possible.

Denise Blake provided a brief overview of the past **neighborhood security patrol** for new residents who hadn't participated before. Neighbors who are interested in the potential resurgence of the program should contact any WEND officer.

### **Education**

Brown Middle School recently was hit with **theft of electronic and technology equipment**. APS' insurance claim for these items was denied.

Aaron Eide gave an update on upcoming APS decisions regarding **flexibility options**. A number of community visioning sessions are happening around the city. Details will be provided as meetings are scheduled.

APS is weighing option on where to house Brown Middle School students during its upcoming **renovation period**.

### **Beautification**

- September's **Yard of the Month** is Steven Barlow at 949 Beecher.
- WEND received a **2014 Love Your Block** grant for tree plantings and cleanup for our local parks.
- We also received an **NPU-T grant** for maintenance of the knock-out roses at Rose Circle Park.

### **Zoning**

The City of Atlanta hosted a Zoning/Code Enforcement workshop last month. Several West End neighbors attended. The City's 2014 Code Enforcement document was sent to all neighbors on our email list.

### **Preservation and Urban Design**

- Alicia Hunter's expansion of 1102 Lawton Pl will finally go before the AUDC, after six months and many revisions.
- The Habitat house is under construction. The Committee has voiced its opposition (in accordance with WEND's vote) on television (11Alive), radio (WABE), and in print (SaportaReport and Atlanta Business Chronicle), and the story has been aired by the NPR Network nationwide. As a result, Habitat is "considering embellishments" to the project.
- The Committee is taking on the task of reviewing our historic guidelines, to see where they may be strengthened to avoid 'interpretation' instead of requirement.
- Three Preservation Committee members attended the Code Enforcement Summit sponsored by City Council on the 16th.
- The UDC staff is still working on the inventory project, between its other duties. Seven streets have been entirely copied. If we wish, we could get the copies in small bunches, as they are ready. The group now completed has a cost of \$75.41.

### **Membership**

- New member baskets will be delivered to Travis and Alexander. Welcome neighbors!
- We anticipate the next round of Porch Parties in October! Please contact Naquia Harris or Alisha Thym if you're interested in being a host.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The **7<sup>th</sup> annual community yard sale** will take place **Saturday, September 20, 2014** from 8am to 5pm. Contact Percy Jackson to make sure your home gets on the map and you receive associated materials.
- **Firefly Furniture** is a new business in our community, providing vintage and restored home furnishings. Check them out in the same strip as the new Family Dollar on Joseph E. Lowery. Welcome to the neighborhood!

### **Next Meeting**

October 7, 2014, 7pm – West End Library

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Submitted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2014



Denise Blake, Secretary

West End Neighborhood Development, Inc.